

The Other Utah

Off the Wasatch Front

by Austin Sargent

Nonmetropolitan Utah Gets A Makeover

Lots of Folk in Them Towns

Over the last 50 years Utah has seen significant change. The dynamics of a growing population and expanding employment have driven the development of urban and rural areas of the state. Let's examine how these changes have impacted the nonmetropolitan part of the state.

"Proverbial wisdom counsels against risk and change. But sitting ducks fare worst of all."

Mason Cooley, U.S. Aphorist

Population plays an important role in the economic health of an area. A growing population is one that needs more goods and services. Businesses grow, or move into an area, to respond to these needs. The opposite can also occur. A stagnant population can slow employment activity since the business climate is not being energized.

Down on the Border

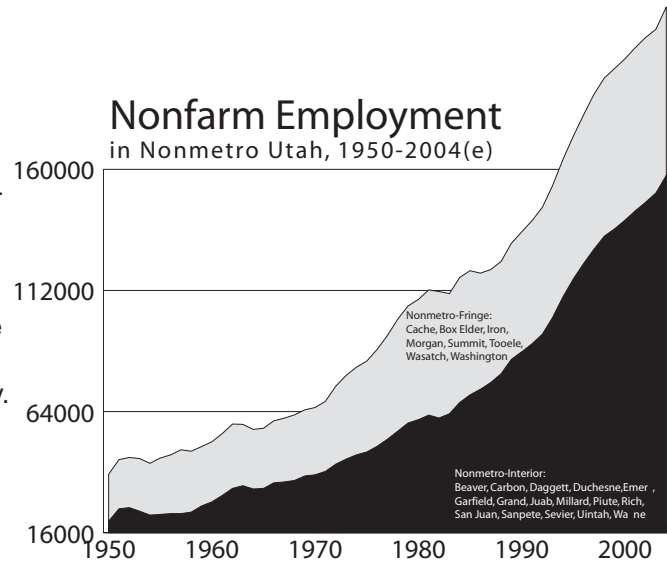
Jobs have expanded in nonmetropolitan Utah. In fact, the average annual rate of growth for nonmetropolitan employment from 1950 to 2003 is 3.3 percent, the slightly below the state's rate. However, the results for nonmetropolitan Utah are not spread evenly. Eight counties – Cache, Box Elder, Iron, Morgan, Summit, Tooele, Wasatch, and Washington are areas of solid growth – the Nonmetro-Fringe. Most of these counties border the urban core. Washington and Iron counties stand alone, driven by Washington County's climate and atheistic. The remaining counties stretch across Utah's interior and have seen lower rates of population and job growth – the Nonmetro-Interior. The Nonmetro-Fringe experienced a strong 3.8 percent average annual change in employment from 1950 to 2003, while on average; its population grew by 2.6 percent. The Nonmetro-Interior showed a 2.4 percent average annual growth in jobs, and its population rose only 0.9 percent.

Rising Stars

In the Nonmetro-Fringe area, much of the growth was in Washington and Cache counties. Washington's development is due to rapid growth as a recreation playground and retirement area. It is now developing its education and health care industries. Cache benefited from corporate spin-offs related to research conducted at Utah State University. This has led to consistent job creation for its growing population.

A Fond Farewell to a Couple of Old Friends

The change we see in nonmetro Utah has been noted by the U.S. Census Bureau. Soon, nonmetropolitan Utah's face will



change as Cache and Washington counties have been classified as new metropolitan areas. Change will continue in nonmetro Utah as recreation and resource development continue to define its economy.



- ✓ The newly opened Home Depot brings not only a big name in garden and building supplies to Cedar City but also provides jobs and keeps more sales revenue in the area. After its first week of business, it's ahead of projections. The store currently has around 80 to 90 employees and plans to have 120 in the future. *The Spectrum*
- ✓ For the first time since Lake Powell was a mere puddle, the lodges and restaurants lakewide will close for the winter season. It was announced that Lake Powell marinas will shift into a seasonal winter schedule. ARAMARK will close down all lodging and restaurants on Nov.

15 and they will remain closed until March 14. There will be limited service with respect to boat rentals, tours and fuel. *Deseret News*

- ✓ California-based Unico Inc. (Arizona) said it has raised \$250,000 from a private investor, bringing the total amount of equity capital raised to \$2 million. The company said the funding will be used primarily to enhance its mill site operations at the Deer Trail Mine in Marysvale, Piute County, for its wholly owned subsidiary, Deer Trail Mining Company LLC. *Deseret News*